What is claimed:

1. Computer apparatus comprising a receiver for receiving an integrity metric for a computer entity via a trusted device associated with the
5 computer entity, the integrity metric having values for a plurality of characteristics associated with the computer entity; a controller for assigning a trust level to the computer entity from a plurality of trust levels, wherein the assigned trust level is based upon the value of at least one of the characteristics of the received integrity metric.

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2. Computer apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the trusted device is arranged to acquire an integrity metric of the computer entity.

3. Computer apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the trust level is
15 determined by comparing the value of the at least one characteristics with a specified value.

4. Computer apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of trust levels are determined base upon a plurality of specified values
20 associated with a plurality of characteristics of a computer entity.

5. Computer apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of trust levels are determined based upon a plurality of specified values associated with characteristics for a plurality of computer entities.

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6. A method of assigning a trust level, the method comprising receiving an integrity metric for a computer entity via a trusted device associated with the computer entity, the integrity metric having values for a plurality of characteristics associated with the computer entity;
30 assigning a trust level to the computer entity from a plurality of trust levels, wherein the assigned trust level is based upon the value of at least one of the characteristics of the received integrity metric.